

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 62025 PUERTO DE LUNA CANAL Allotment [12/09/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 62025 PUERTO DE LUNA CANAL. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
62025-IDSU-A033	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Puerto De Luna Canal allotment, #62025. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot locations within the allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 480 acres of public land. The study is located on one ecological site; Breaks South CP-2. A majority of the indicators for this location fell into the None to Slight category or the Slight to Moderate category. Three indicators were rated as a Moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description – Bare Ground, Functional Structural Groups and Invasive Species. Both were due to the amount of mesquite, cholla and juniper present. The interdisciplinary team also estimated the production on this location to be approximately 60% to of annual production, and noted that recent grazing here was apparent.

There are no riparian areas on the public land within this allotment.

Recommendations: With the majority of the indicators falling in the None to Slight category or Slight to Moderate, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standards for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. There is a potential to work with other agencies, such as the New Mexico State Land office or the Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) to map and discuss the feasibility of implementing a

vegetation treatment to reduce the amount of juniper if warranted. This would not be economical if only applied to the 480 acres of public land.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet						
SITE 62025-IDSU-A033						
Legal Land Desc	SESW 4 0070N 0220E Meridian 23		Acreage		480	
Ecosite	070BY060NM BREAKS SOUTH CP-2		Photo Taken		Y	
Watershed	13060001190 GUADALUPE MINE					
Observers	ORTEGA & TRAUTNER		Observation Date		12/09/2010	
County Soil Survey	NM019 GUADALUPE		Soil Var/Taxad			
Soil Map Unit	010		Soil Taxon Name		REGNIER	
Texture Class	NM019 L		Soil Phase		REGNIER-ROC-LATOM	
Texture Modifier	NM019 LOAM					
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation			Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation			
NOAA Annual Precipitation			NOAA Growing Season Precipitation			
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation			NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation			
Disturbances and Animal Use:						
Part 2. Attributes and Indicators						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills				X	
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground			X		
Comments:						

S H	Gullies				X	
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	This location is being influenced by mesquite, cholla and juniper.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:	Less litter here than expected					
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:	Annual production is approximately 60% of the ecological site level. This may be influenced by invasive species.					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Mesquite, cholla and juniper are noted as invading.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:	Mule deer at this location					

B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	1	7	2
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	9	1
B	Biotic	0	0	2	4	5

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	1	9
Hydrologic		0	1	10
Biotic		0	2	9

Site Notes: Many grass species noted at this location. Grazing is estimated to be higher than expected. This site also has inclusions of gypsum. The public lands may be better represented by moving the study location to the larger tract of public land which is several miles to the south.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 62025 PUERTO DE LUNA CANAL

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are the (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The Rod also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluated the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within the Puerto de Luna Canal allotment, #62025, meets the (1) Upland Sites Standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman
Assistant Field Manager

01/24/2011
Date